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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/875,916 10/31/97 VINZ

P VINZ=2

001444 IM22/0605  
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EXAMINER

KALAFUT, S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1745

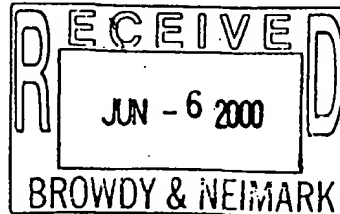
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DATE MAILED:

06/05/00

**DOCKETED**

*Amend - 05 SE 2000*



Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

# Office Action Summary

Application No. 08/875916 Applicant(s) VINZExaminer KACAFETGroup Art Unit 1745

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

## Status

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/30/99

☐ This action is FINAL.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 9-29 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 9-29 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
  - ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Office Action Summary

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1. Claims 9-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The terms "high vapor partial pressure" and "low vapor partial pressure", in claims 9 and 17, are of indefinite scope. There is no clear antecedent for "the vapor component" in claim 10. In claims 13 and 21, the terms "constant-remaining increase" and "the constant-remaining vapor depletion" are confusing because if a value remains constant, it must neither increase nor decrease. In claims 10 and 18, the term "substance system selected" does not precisely define the substances. The use of brackets [] in the claims is confusing, because these are normally used to indicated material which is deleted from a claim. What a "quasi electrostatic potential difference" is, in claims 14 and 22, is not understood. The term "several volts", in claims 14 and 22, would have indefinite scope. In claims 15, 16, 23 and 24, the recitation "the bottom" is incomplete. The bottom of what component is intended? The claims are also not in normal process form, where the verbs should be in the active form ("...ing").

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The numerals 2, on page 2/6, line 16; and 21, on page 2/9, line 16, are not found in the drawings. Numeral 28.1, in figure 2, is not found in the specification. Appropriate correction is required. This office action replaces the action of 3/4/99, and is directed to the claims added in the preliminary amendment.

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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Kalafut whose telephone number is (703) 308-0433. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, his supervisor, Maria Nuzzolillo, may be reached at (703) 305-3776. The Technology Center receptionist may be reached at (703) 308-0661.

sjk

June 2, 2000

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. H. H.', is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

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